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Editor's Preface

Angela B. Wagner
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The Religious Studies Center and Students of the Ancient Near East are proud to submit this issue of Studia Antiqua. It is a tribute to the students and facilities at Brigham Young University that a journal of this quality has continued, largely uninterrupted, for the past seven years. It carries on out of a sense of academic malaise, or discontent with present ideas about history and an itching to advance them. Every student author has done just what they ought: thoughtfully confronted historical issues and recorded their findings. In essence, this is the reason for the journal’s longevity: so long as students wish to confront history, they will require an adequate venue—which Studia Antiqua provides. That is why I wish to thank not only the motivated students who contribute to the quality of each publication, but also the Religious Studies Center, which oversees the journal, and the several faculty members who review every piece that makes it to publication.

The new segment that was introduced in the last issue, namely an article to familiarize nonspecialist readers with important aspects of the history of the ancient world, continues in this edition with Joseph Petramalo’s survey of the development of heresy and orthodoxy. If you’ve reviewed a historical topic, please consider submitting it.

Because of its close ties with the Ancient Near Eastern Studies program, the focus of Studia Antiqua has remained in and around the ancient Near East. However, it has long been the journal’s ambition to provide a forum for research related to all ancient cultures, from Siberia to Mesoamerica. I am therefore very excited to present in this issue a piece on the Anglo-Saxon Ruthwell Cross. You’ll find it on page 97. We readily encourage submissions dealing with other cultures. If you have some research you have been doing on an ancient culture and you would like to see it in print, please do not hesitate to submit it.

This issue would not have been possible without a number of individuals. I wish to thank Michael D. Rhodes for his continuing expertise, as well as Glen Cooper, Richard D. Draper, Nick Frederick, Mark Johnson, Jared W. Ludlow, Dana M. Pike, Stephen D. Ricks, Thomas A. Wayment, and Miranda Wilcox, who all contributed time to reviewing submissions and providing feedback to students. The Neal A. Maxwell Institute for Religious Scholarship has contributed generously to the publication of this journal, as have the Students of the Ancient Near East and Ancient Near Eastern Studies. I wish to especially thank Richard Neitzel Holzapfel, Devan Jensen, Joany Pinegar and the Religious Studies Center, which provides the internship that allows us the time necessary to make the journal presentable.

Angela B. Wagner
Editor in Chief, Studia Antiqua